

dry zone whose eggs remain unidentified. I have shewn both nests and eggs to K. C. Macdonald, describing locality and date, so I hope he will be fortunate enough next year to get a good series of eggs, as the bird is fairly common in certain tracts.

MONGWA, BURMA,  
9th August 1904.

H. H. HARRINGTON, CAPTAIN.

#### No. XVIII.—NOTES ON BURMESE REPTILES.

##### DRYOPHIS MYCTERIZANS.

In a paper on Burmese Snakes, Vol. XIII, page 615, Captain Wall and I mentioned a specimen containing three apparently mature young. I killed a female on 4th May containing five young, without trace of an egg envelope.

##### DRYOPHIS PRASINUS.

A specimen killed in jungle by a Burman, 5th June, contained nine (9) eggs.

This snake in the adult stage is described in Boulenger's Reptilia:—'Fauna British India'—Reptilia and Batrachia, as ferocious, while *Dryophis mycterizans* is said to be a very gentle snake. My experience is that both are gentle enough when left alone, but when irritated *Dryophis mycterizans* often loses his temper badly, and with open jaws strikes violently, raising the fore part of the body well off the ground in order to do so, while I have rarely found *prasinus* at all vicious, even when subjected to considerable irritation.

##### LYCODON FASCIATUS.

In Volume XIII, page 372, Captain Wall and I described two specimens of this apparently rare snake. I have been fortunate in obtaining a third from a friend who killed it at Maymyo, 3,000'.

Length 2'-7"

Tail 6½"

Anterior chin shields equal to posterior.

Ventrals 203.

Subcaudals 86.

Colour as already described; there are 28 reddish yellow bands on body and 14 on the tail.

##### SIMOTES ALBOCINCTUS.

This is the first specimen I have received or seen in Burma. It was killed on the 6th April 1902 at Sadôn, Kachin Hills, 4,500'.

Length 2'-10".

Tail 6".

The internasal suture almost equals the præfrontal.

Loreal shield united with the præfrontal.

Ventrals 202.

Subcaudals 58.

There are in all 23 light, black-edged bands involving two scales, the intervals eight scales.

## DIPSADOMORPHUS CYANEA.

This snake I consider is a very rare one in Burma. On the 1st instant I was fortunate in receiving a very fine female; she was killed in a garden at Kokine some three miles from town.

Rostral just visible from above.

Loreal depth slightly less than length.

Temporals 2 + 4 R, 2 + 3 L.

Ventrals 247.

Subcaudals 124.

Length 4'-9" ; tail, which was whip-like, 14".

Colour above, a uniform dark, grass green; under jaws bluish white turning to slight yellow at fifth ventral, after which the colour was more pronounced. The specimen was rather mutilated about the body. I found on opening up a wound into the abdominal cavity two eggs uninjured, two damaged. There may have been others which were destroyed.

The eggs measured 1.25" × .62". There was no trace of an embryo; the contents consisted of a thick creamy material of a pale yellow colour.

## THE FOOD, ETC., OF CHRYSOPELEA ORNATA.

In Boulenger's Reptilia and Batrachia, page 372, it is stated that "it feeds almost exclusively on Geckos." I believe that Geckos do constitute a main feature in their bill of fare. It is clear, however, that they are not averse to an occasional change. On the 8th July 1900 Captain Wall and I received a specimen which contained a bat, *Taphozons longimanus*. Two specimens since sent to me each contained a bat, unfortunately too far digested for easy recognition. It is notable that these two specimens were killed about houses, that is on creepers over the trellis work of porches, where there is little doubt they found bats an easy prey. Another specimen I caught while it was lying on a bamboo contained a flying lizard, which I made out to be *Draco tenuiopterus*.

With regard to the breeding of this snake. In a paper on Burmese Snakes, Vol. XIII, page 614, Captain Wall and I mentioned a specimen with two enlarged ovarian follicles received on 27th May 1900; again in same paper a specimen received on 26th June 1900 containing 9 eggs (5 in one ovary, 4 in the other).

Since this, specimens have been received by me; one female on 3rd June 1904 containing 11 eggs (7 in one ovary, 4 in the other): a brood of young (6) found by a Mali on 14th June which measured from 4½" to 6": in August two young specimens, from size perhaps 6 weeks old. One measured 13½", tail 2¾"; the other 14", tail 3¾". In Vol. XIII, page 345, Captain Wall and I described the colour of a young specimen which differs from that of the adult, and I have observed that all the young specimens are as we then described.

## NAIA SPUTATRIX.

One specimen, Southern Shan States—

Scales across hood ... ..	21
Scales midbody ... ..	17
Ventrals ... ..	170
Subcaudals ... ..	27, first 6 single.
Length ... ..	56"
Tail (docked) ... ..	6"

Colour a uniform deepish black with no marks of any description on hood or body. One fairly dark ventral band below the neck.

## OPHISAURUS GRACILIS.

I have on several occasions received specimens of this curious lizard, accompanied by letters of enquiry as to the nature of the peculiar 'snake' sent. In Boulenger's work, page 159, Rangoon is mentioned as a habitat. Though my residence here extends over a number of years, I have never seen nor heard of a specimen captured here. This might of course easily happen, but that a great variety of snakes, insects, etc., find their way to my bungalow. I am quite certain of one thing, however, and that is it is an extremely rare reptile here. The specimens received and those taken by myself were all at places of considerable elevation, *i.e.*, from 2,500' to 5,000'. If I remember rightly, Mr. Hampton informed me it is by no means rare about Mogòk in the Ruby Mines district.

It may be interesting to note that on the 7th August 1903 a friend living at Maymyo 3,000', while engaged in digging out stumps from his garden came across two of these lizards at the root of a stump some 15" to 18" underground, and while effecting their capture discovered eight eggs. The lizards and eggs were sent to me. The latter were of a dirty whitish brown colour tinged with red. Measurements varied a trifle, but they were about .8" x .48" and contained embryos measuring 2½" in length.

The specimens were just as described in Boulenger's Reptilia: 'Fauna British India'—Reptilia and Batrachia.

G. H. EVANS, F.L.S., MAJOR.

RANGOON, 10th August 1904.

No. XIX.—THE NIDIFICATION OF THE LITTLE BLUE WINGED  
PITTA (*PITTA CYANOPTERA*) IN UPPER BURMA.

On the 26th July 1904, while walking home along a path through light jungle, I flushed a Pitta close to the path (about 1½ yards). I soon detected a nest, so retired and took cover near by. After considerable waiting the bird returned, and I was able to recognise it. The nest was situated on a mound and only slightly hidden by some blades of long grass. The opening faced the path, which I fancy was one only occasionally used by odd persons visiting jungle. What struck me was the enormous size of the nest for a bird so small; it consisted of old bamboo and other twigs and a few leaves loosely